

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF THE MIGRANT WORKERS- A STUDY IN SOME DISTRICTS OF ODISHA

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ABSTRACT

The research study has revealed that, labor migration is a human phenomenon, and the process of migration generate due to socio- economic factors. The study especially focuses on inter-state migration subsists in Odisha. Lots of workers migrated from Odisha to other States for searching of their livelihood. The root causes of migration are unemployment, drought, improper implementation of Government policy, earning better livelihood, etc. The Socio-Economic conditions of the workers are not well-enough in their native places as well as destination area. The migrant workers face lots of challenges in their working sectors and other areas and simultaneously their rights are violated. The Children of the workers suffered with mal-nutrition and not get any proper educational facility. Though the Government of Odisha in Collaboration with Labor and ESI Department has taken the MoU with neighbor States to reduce the rate of labor migration but still it continue large number. In the present circumstances there is specific legislation to deal with the issues relating to inter-state migration in India but still rights of the migrant workers are violated. There is a co-ordination gap between the Administrative Mechanism and NGOs and as well as policy implementation in the rural areas. The lack of awareness is overcome as another reason that for the rights of the migrant workers remain unprotected. Recently the Government of Odisha has launched Kalia Krushaka Kalyan Yojana for upliftment of the standards of the farmers.

KEYWORDS: Awareness, Migration, MoU, Inter-State & Implementation

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INTRODUCTION

The term labor migration means the working classes leave their native places and searching the suitable jobs in another place. The journey of labor migration in Odisha starts during the period of the British regime in India. The term 'labor migration' in this State is popularly known as 'Dadan Shramik'. The Royal Commission on Labor (1929-1931)¹ observed that Odia workers used to visits to Rangoon later on renamed as Myanmar, Bombay, Bengal and Assam since 1830 where they engaged in plantation work, construction of earth work dams, railways construction, roads construction, textiles and jute mills etc. To maintain their minimum living standard, the workers of Orissa migrate to various industrially sound parts of the Country being forced by natural calamities like droughts, floods and huge pressure of population, absence of substitute options of employment. The exploitation by the Jaminders in the Princely State of Orissa had forced the workers to migrate out from their naïve places.

During the British rules a large group of indigenous people was reduced to the status of bond slaves or acrostic serfs of money lenders, zamindars and contractors. This section emerged in Indian society as the outcome of political and socio-economic policies pursued by the Britishers. Another section was reduced to the category of

¹ <https://dspace.gipe.ac.in/xmlui/handle/10973/24808> , accessed 19/05/2019

near slave laborers or dadanlaborers, laboring on plantations, mines, road constructions and other projects.² In this State different tribes have different migrant histories. The Santals and Munda community from the various district of Odisha were migrating to the Assam tea gardens in the year 1840s and they started the trend. They used to become regular migrant workers in the Assam tea garden by the year 1930. The tea District Labor Association was formed for the sole purpose of recruitment from Bengal, Bihar and Odisha and the central provinces like Uttar Pradesh and Madras. In Odisha the initial recruitment was primarily from Mayurbhanj and other districts near the Bihar border inhabited mainly by the Santals and Mundas³. At that time the British Government brought drastic changes in the zamindars tenant for respite from taxes in lean year's small loans but justice were denied even such poor concessions by the creation of absentee lords. Moreover, the implementation of land revenue policy, followed by the deliberate neglect of agricultural development with meager degree of intensification of cash crop production, over crowdedness in agriculture due to increase in population and all resulted in growing indebtedness in rural India. These factors contributed for the transfer of land from the poor peasants to the village sow cars. The economic condition of peasants was deteriorating due to frequent occurrence of famines and vagarious of nature. As a result, the peasants groaned under severe ruthless exploitation. Thus the regions like Odisha, Bihar and Madras presidency became supplier of mass scale indebted labor which mushroomed on the ashes of slavery. The licensed recruiters and agents carried on the labor recruitment.

In Odisha the large proportion of migrant laborers belongs to the category of agricultural workers and very often they belongs to scheduled caste, other backward classes and scheduled tribes. Very few instances are there that those who have possess limited land but due to available resource to cultivate, the land remain uncultivated for years. Accordingly, they are forced to engage as agricultural laborers in the land of the big landlords and Jamindars of the same village or adjoining villages. The employment being the seasonal and the wages being low, they find it hard to make both ends meet. Thus, the insufficiency of such laborer's earning to mitigate the living expenditure even on a subsistence level seems to be the basic underlying factor of their indebtedness.⁴ Furthermore, the social customs and obligations of the migrant workers viz; births ceremony, marriage ceremony, death in the families and drinking habit play the vital role in forcing the poor workers to take the borrowings from the landlords. The money lenders use to take advantages of the progressively worse economic conditions of the poor. They provide small loan to the workers from time to time in return of binding them to work as agricultural laborers till the recovery of the final debt. Thus, indebtedness has been generally believed to have emerged as a factor challenging the economic self-sufficiency of such laborers who find it difficult to repay. Their due increases very fast under unreasonably high rates of interest. The workers find it impossible to recover their debts and begin to work for the creditor at extremely low wages and venture to repay the debt by their hard work. At this lean time, the Jamindars and the recruiting agents of stone quarry lessees, brick-kiln owners or construction project contractors approach such workers to the distant land. As each laborer is paid a part of his due for the labor he would render before he goes to the worksite in advance and rest after the period of contract is over the practice followed is well named after the Dadanlabor. The agricultural laborers unable to understand the problems and agony involved at the time of receiving such advance from the recruiting agents or contractors.⁵

²Tripathy, S. N. and Das, C. R., 'Migrant Labour in India', Op. cit; p.5.

³Loes-Schenk-Sundbergen (Ed.), "Women and Seasonal Labour Migration, Indo-Dutch Studies on Development Alternatives," Sage Publication, New Delhi, 1995 p.108

⁴Tripathy, S. N., "Bonded Labour in India", Discovery Publishing House, New Delhi, 1989, p.15.

⁵Tripathy, S. N and Dash., C. R., "Migrant Labour in India", Discovery Publishing House, New Delhi, first published in 1997. Pp.3-4

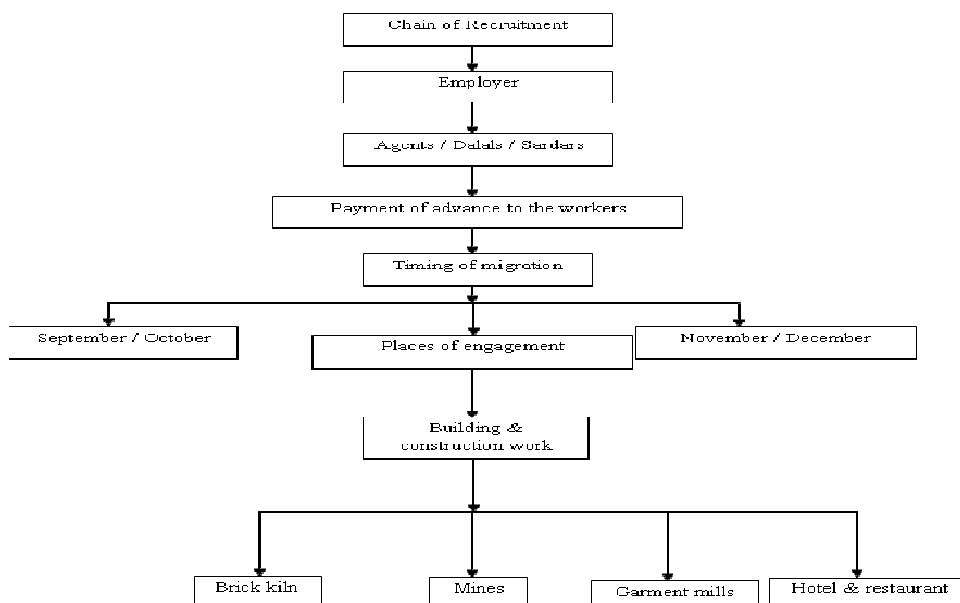


Figure 1: Recruitment System of Migrant Workers.

2. CAUSES OF LABOR MIGRATION

According to the National Commission on Rural Labor even development was the main cause of seasonal migration. Apart from this inter-regional disparity between different socio-economic classes along with the development policy adopted since independence has faster than usual the process of seasonal migration. In the tribal regions, the process of intrusion of outsiders i. e. an occasion when someone goes into a place or situation where they are not wanted or expected to be and the pattern of settlement, the action of moving something from its place or position and deforestation has played a vital role for growing the process of labor migration. The large numbers of migration literature mark a distinction between ‘pull’ and ‘push’ factors. Which do not operate in isolation of one another? Migration occurs when workers have not found any suitable options for employment or livelihood in their place of origin, and also there is some expectation of the workers for improvement in miserable conditions through migration.

The improvement of conditions may be better employment with higher wages, and also included maximization of family employment or smoothing of employment, and make the suitable balance between the income and consumption over the year. During the course of migration process, the workers could be fastened into a debt-migration cycle, where the income from migration are only used to repay debts incurred at home or in the destination places. In maximum number of cases labor migration occur involuntary natures. The National Commission on Rural Labor has recognized the existence of something that changes in character gradually for poor migrants by differentiating between rural labor migration for survival and for subsistence. The landless poor workers belong to the lower caste, indigenous communities and from the economically backward regions, migrate for their existence and constitute a significant proportion of seasonal labor flow (Report, Study Group on Migrant Labor, 1990). The late 1960s witness the growth of intensive agriculture and commercialization of agriculture has led to peak periods of labor demand also coinciding with a decline in local labor deployment. Wage differences between source and destination place have considered and another reason for labor migration as a consequences large number of workers engaged to the rice producing belt of West Bengal. Moreover, unavailability of non-farm employment and low agricultural productivity has resulted in a rapid growth of seasonal migration (Rogaly *et al*, 2001). The decisions for migration are influenced

mainly by individual and household characteristics as well as the social condition. Factors such as age, health, education, wealth, productivity from land owned and employment opportunities influence the involvement of individuals and households in migration, but in this regard social attitudes and supporting social networks has some relevance. (Haberfeld *et. al*, 1999).

Where the labor migration process is involuntary nature, it hardly makes sense to use voluntaristic models to explain the phenomenon. For instance in Dhule region (belongs to Maharashtra) sugarcane cultivation leads to high demand for labor, but landowners recruit laborers from other districts for harvesting as they can have effective control over the labor. Consequently local workers are thus forced to migrate with their family households to South Gujarat.⁶ Odishais termed as the surplus zone of labors. Accordingly the landlords' from other states used to visit in the state of Odisha particularly in the rural areas and having well contacted with local labor agents for recruitment of the workers. The poor workers of the state migrated to other states due following reasons such as:

Poverty

Poverty is the root cause of labor migration. The rural poor households are landless and very few have the minimum land holding by means of which they can hardly manage the households for two or three months in a year. In this regard migration is the best alternative for income for the households. They get food to eat at least for six months of migration tenure along with some amount of advance money. It is very hard for the workers to save a very small amount of money at the end of the migration period. So through the process of migration, the migrant households are ascertained of food for six months in a year and rest six months they can be managed from the local available resources and own land holdings cultivation in the village. The so called poverty is one of the genuine reasons for labor migration in Odisha.

Limited Work Availability

The scope of work availability is very limited in the agricultural activities and non-agricultural activities as for example the construction work made by the local Panchayats or brick making in the kiln, construction of private house etc. The poor workers from rural and remote villages did not get the job on regular basis in their local places or urban areas. In the age of technology the demands for the skilled workers are very high but the poor villagers are not technically sound and in that regards they have no demands at large. So they need to depend upon the seasonal agricultural works and domestic works outside their own village. Sometimes it becomes very difficult for them to find the job and then they no option left but to remain starve. In this situation the poor workers have no option left to survive or run the family and decided to migrate out to the other states for suitable jobs.

Improper Government Facilities

Work released under MGREGA scheme is still not full-fledged operational in the rural areas. The real scenario is that some villagers have got job cards and some households have applied but yet not received any job card. According to the workers, it is very difficult to get work through job card in regular basis. They also face trouble for getting work in proper time. The mandate of 100 days of work are not fulfilled by the local administration and remained as cherished dream. Delaying of payment creates the hue cry situation in the rural areas. Lack of information and ignorance are also creates hindrance.

⁶Srivastava, Ravi, "An overview of migration in India, its impacts and key issues", Pp-5-6, retrieved from <https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org>.

Exploitation by Landlords

The family expenditure burden of the households during the lean period make the workers option less, to overcome from the situation the poor households take loans from the Jamindars and the landlords in the villages. Very often they give their land as mortgage for taking loan. The loans are taken to mitigate the expenditure on basic requirements such as food, clothing, education, marriage ceremony, cultivation, and expenses for relatives & festivals, funeral ceremony, medical expenses, repayment of old loans etc. The landlords and Jamindars take this opportunity and charge high rate of interest which is huge burden for workers to repay the loan.

Drought

Drought creates difficulties in double crops system cultivable land exists in Odisha. Due to drought the land remains as uncultivable and the workers become jobless. The landless agricultural workers and marginal farmers faced with lack of alternative employment opportunities and low agricultural yields within their native places are forced to look for alternative jobs in another place. The non-institutional money lending system creates very miserable condition for the workers. The loans are stringent and non-negotiable in nature. Drought takes place in Odisha in a regular interval in that situation the households become option less and bound to take loan in order to mitigate the basic requirements of the households. In order to repay the loans money of the moneylenders, they used to take advance money from the labor contractors or dalals. It makes the conditions of the workers more vulnerable as they sink further into the deliberately cruel cycle of debt. Finally, the burden of monetary constraints forced the workers to migrate out from their source for searching of the livelihood. In that situation the workers lose their bargaining power regarding the better working conditions and official wage rates at the working places.

Middlemen Influences

The middlemen play the vital role in the labor migration process. During the lean period, the middlemen contact with the poor households and provide a lump-sum amount of money to sort out the problems of the workers according to their requirements. In lieu, they motivate them to migrate. The poor households are migrate for repay the loan and advances due of their earlier debts. In that regard the poor households are always in touch with the village level contractors to tackle the financial pressure occurs due to marriages, deaths, festivals etc. It is real truth that the poor workers have had no cash capital out which they will mitigate the huge amount of financial expenditure in needs so in that regards they need to depends upon the local contractors for financial assistance. This policy leads to increase the rural labor migration in Odisha.

Advance Money Facility

Advance payment facility provide by the Dalals in various districts is noted as another cause for the poor households to migrate, in regard to the low productivity, shortage of work, low wage rate and irregular payment and huge burden of debt, clearance of loan money. The provision of advance payment ranges from Rs.3000/- to Rs.10, 000/- or more depending on the conditions that the involvement of number of working family members, another reason is that the poor households are unable to gather such a big amount of money at a time from any other sources. There is no provisions for the poor workers to avail loan from any formal sectors for personal consumption rather they depend on the informal money lending system and which is very hard for repayment. In this regard, the Dalals of the brick kiln industries provide them opportunity to take advance money before engage in work place. This seems to be a great chance for the workers to clear the loan taken from the money lenders, make free their mortgaged land and sustain their families.

ADDRESSING THE VIOLATION OF RIGHTS OF THE MIGRANT WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Sexual Exploitation of Women Migrant Workers

The women workers are not totally safe in the place of work, they sexually harassed by the employer or by the other person in the work sites. In the maximum instances the news of sexual harassment of women at work place are suppressed by the employer, but in few cases it comes to the light of the media.

Discrimination with Low Wage Rate

In the work-site the migrant women workers were provided with low wage by the employer. Although the nature of workload is equal with the men but they are not provided with equal payment for the equal nature of work.

Poor Working and Living Condition

The women migrant workers face the problem of poor working and living condition in the worksite. The employer gave no attention about their problems. This results into violation of right to life provision enumerated in Article 21 of the Indian Constitution.

Improper Rationing Facility

In the workplace the workers were provided with improper rationing facility meanwhile their fundamental rights were also violated. Without having any food security how they could survive and to continue their work and in this regard the employer has no headache.

Unavailability of Educational Facility

In the workplace the children of the workers deprive from their fundamental right to education. In this regard the employer does not pay heed about this matter.

Limited Freedom of Movement

The women migrant workers have the limited freedom of movement in work places. Without taking prior permission from the employer they cannot moved out from their dingy room. Even they have no right to assemble and take part in the discussion.

Violation of Employment Contract

The employer as a regular interval violates the employment contract, and it results into insecurity of wages. In this regard the workers are forced to leave the workplace with or without wages.

Lack of Social Protection

The social protection schemes aims at preventing, reducing and eliminating social and economic vulnerabilities to poverty and deprivation. The three core pillar of human rights i. e. social protection includes gender equality, non-discrimination and State obligation as the bases for gender dimensions in the social protection system. But in the working places and as well as in the source the social protection measures are not properly implemented.

Poor Medical Facility

Poor medical facility is another reason for violation of the rights of the women migrant workers. In the workplace the workers were not provided with the proper medical treatment and even no first aid centre is available for them.

Children Suffered with Mal-Nutrition

The children of the migrant workers suffered with mal-nutrition in the working places. They have provided with broken rice and onion for meal. The workers faced troubles with their children because due to lack of immunity power the children often suffered with diseases and fallen sick.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF MIGRANT WORKERS

The factors responsible for the migration to a large extent depend upon the socio-economic condition of the migrant workers. Very often labor migration takes place under pressure to earn more money for survival of family members. As the migrant happens to be the sole bread earner of the family and hence there are not enough savings to pay for repayment of loans taken, construction of houses, small business, dowry expenses, medical expenditure, education of children and above all maintenance of family to fulfill their minimum requirements. The Census report 2011 shows that about 51 million of migrants moved within different parts of India for economic purposes and comprising nearly 10% of the labour force.⁷ Due to un-availability of jobs in the native places the workers migrated to other States to manage their livelihood. The migrant workers belong to the vulnerable groups. Their working conditions, nature of households, family income status, and educational facility proves their vulnerability. During the course of research the tenth migration prone districts were taken into consideration and the socio-economic conditions of the workers assessed very carefully. The rights they are availed in the place of origin and destination are seriously scrutinized. The depth studies on the socio-economic conditions of the workers are summarized as follows:

Survey Results

Types of Houses Owned by the Migrant Workers

Table 1: Types of Houses Owned by the Migrant Workers

Name of the Districts	Number of Workers	Type of House Owned (% of Total Surveyed Households)			
		Katcha (Mud Wall)	Thatched (Brick Wall)	Semi-Pucca	Pucca
Bargarh	40	24	9	4	3
Bolangir	72	48	17	5	2
Kalahandi	52	29	14	8	1
Nuapada	59	37	12	9	1
Ganjam	48	22	16	7	3
Bhadrak	34	18	13	2	1
Khurda	45	26	11	6	2
Cuttack	30	11	13	2	4
Rayagada	44	27	9	5	3
Nabarangpur	36	21	8	6	1
Total	460	263 (57.2%)	122 (26.5%)	54 (11.7%)	21 (4.6%)

Source: Field Survey.

⁷Rajan, Induriya S., Kumar., Ashwin., Heller. Arokkiara. J, "The realities of voting in India perspective from internal labour migrants" Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. IV, No. 18, May 4, 2019.

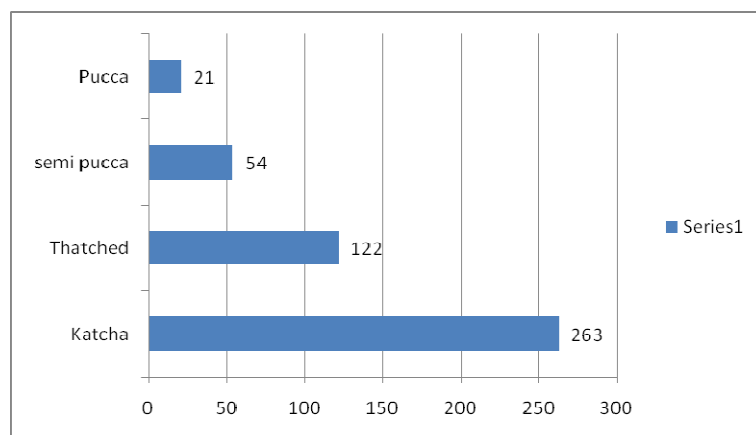


Figure 2

The above table and Figures shows that 57.2% workers stay in Katcha house with mud wall, 26.5% workers are used to stay in Thatched with brick wall, 11.7% workers are stay in semi pucca houses and rest of the 4.6% workers are stay in pucca houses. So the maximum numbers of workers are used to stay in Katcha houses. The housing condition of the workers are not in a well-balanced condition.

Educational Attainment of the Workers

Table 2: Educational Attainment of the Workers

Name of the Districts	Total Number of Workers	Illiterate		Below 5 th Class		Below 10 th Class		Below + 3	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Bargarh	40	19	47.5	14	35	5	12.5	2	5
Bolangir	72	43	59.7	18	25	7	9.7	4	5.6
Kalahandi	52	27	51.9	19	36.5	4	7.7	2	3.8
Nuapada	59	31	52.5	17	28.8	8	13.6	3	5.1
Ganjam	48	26	54.2	14	29.2	6	12.5	2	4.1
Bhadrak	34	14	41.2	12	35.3	5	14.7	3	8.8
Khurda	45	16	35.6	20	44.4	7	15.6	2	4.4
Cuttack	30	9	30	11	36.7	6	20	4	13.3
Rayagada	44	15	34	18	40	8	18.2	3	6.8
Nabarangpur	36	13	36.1	16	44.4	5	13.9	2	5.6
Total (Average)	460	213	46.3	159	34.6	61	13.3	27	5.8

Source: Field Survey.

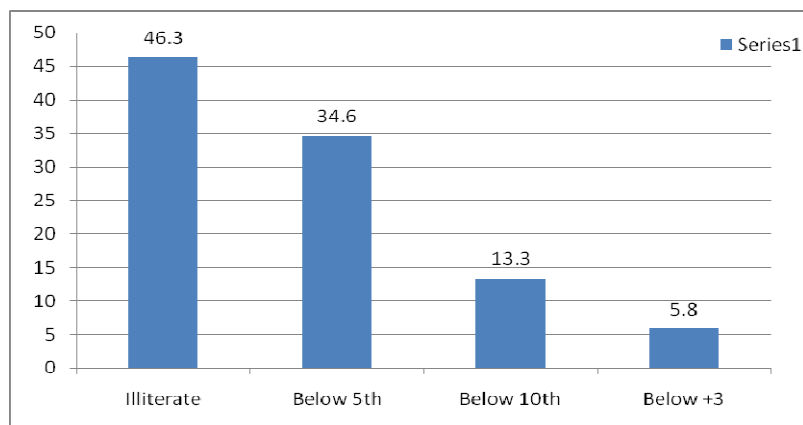


Figure 3

The above Table and Figures shows that 46.3% workers are illiterate and 34.6% workers availed the education below 5th standard, 13.3% workers covers below 10th standard and only 5.8% workers avail the educational facility of 12th standard classes. From the aforesaid data collected from the study area shows that large portions of workers are illiterate and very less number comes under the coverage of preliminary, matriculation and H. S+2 stage.

Implementation of MGNREGA and Others Schemes

Table 3: Implementation of MGNREGA and Others Schemes

Name of Districts	Total Number of Workers	Implementation of NREGA and other Schemes			
		Response Rate		Response Rate	
		Yes	Percent	No	Percent
Bargarh	40	15	37.5	25	62.5
Bolangir	72	26	36.1	46	63.9
Kalahandi	52	18	34.6	34	65.4
Nuapada	59	23	39	36	61
Ganjam	48	17	35.4	31	64.6
Bhadrak	34	14	41.2	20	58.2
Khurda	45	16	35.6	29	64.4
Cuttack	30	13	43.3	17	56.7
Rayagada	44	19	43.2	25	56.8
Nabarangpur	36	12	33.3	24	66.7
Total Number	460	173	37.6	287	62.4

Source: Field Survey

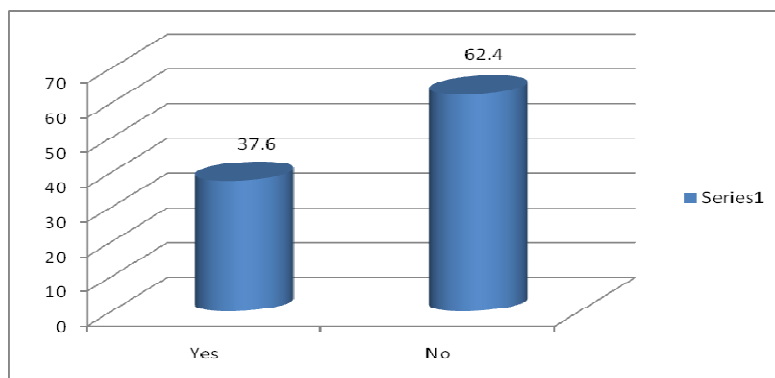


Figure 4: The Mgnrega Beneficiaries Ratio.

The Table and Figures shows that 62.4% of workers are not get benefited from the MGNREGA and other social welfare schemes and rest of the 37.6% of workers entitled to social protection schemes but not on regular basis. So, large numbers of workers are deprived from getting the benefit of social protection schemes.

Family Income Status of the Workers

Table 4: Family Income Status of the Workers

Name of the Districts	Total Number of Workers	Below 5,000/-		Within 5 To 10 Thousands.		Below 15,000/-	
		No	%	No	%	No	%
Bargarh	40	15	37.5	22	55	3	7.5
Bolangir	72	30	41.7	38	52.8	4	5.5
Kalahandi	52	22	42.4	28	53.8	2	3.8
Nuapada	59	24	40.7	32	54.2	3	5.1
Ganjam	48	20	41.7	23	47.9	5	10.4

Table 4: contd.,							
Bhadrak	34	14	41.2	18	52.9	2	5.9
Khurda	45	17	37.8	24	53.3	4	8.9
Cuttack	30	8	26.6	16	53.4	6	20
Rayagada	44	16	36.4	25	56.8	3	6.8
Nabarangpur	36	13	36.1	21	58.3	2	5.6
Total (Average)	460	179	38.9	247	53.7	34	7.4

Source: Field Survey

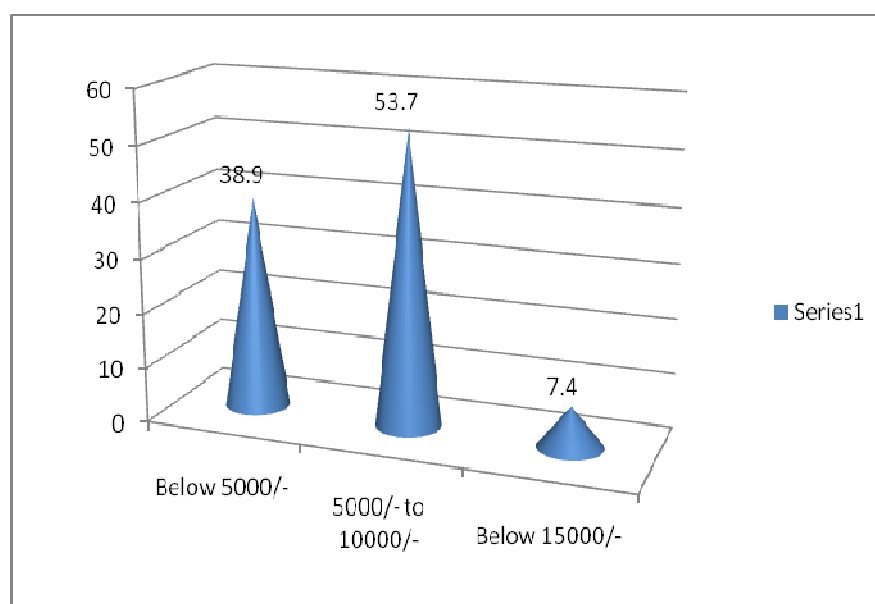


Figure 5: Worker's Salaries.

The above Figure represents that 38.9% workers family income are below five thousands rupees and 53.7% workers family income varies from 5 to 10 thousand rupees and only 7.4% workers earn less than 15 thousand rupees per month.

PROTECTION UNDER CONSTITUTION OF INDIA AND LEGISLATIVE ENACTMENT

The Constitution of India treated as Grundnorm, i. e. the Parent Act. The Part-III of the Constitution⁸ of India provides some protection towards the working classes. Article 23 of the Constitution of India clearly stated prohibition of “begar” and other similar forms of forced labor and further provides that any contravention of the said prohibition shall be an offence punishable in accordance with law. Again Article 24 clearly prohibits employment of children in factories and other construction and further states that the children below the age of 14 years shall not be employed to work in any factory or mine or employed in any other industry. Furthermore, the Directive Principles enshrined in the Part IV of the Constitution of India served as guiding bacons for the State, also advocated for labor equality and the end of discrimination.⁹ The various directives (social-economic charter and community welfare charter) of Part- IV of the Constitution has clearly mentioned about State policy regarding the protection of the workers right, viz; Article 38 clearly mentioned it is the duty of the State to secure a social order for the promotion and welfare of the people. Article 39(a) provides that the citizens, men and women equally, have the right to an adequate means of livelihood, and whereas, Article

⁸ The “Fundamental Rights” cover under the Part-III of the Constitution of India.

⁹ See, The Constitution of India, 1950, Schedule VII.

39(d) address about equal pay for equal work for both men and women. The provisions of Article 39(e) clearly mentioned that the health and strength of workers including men and women, and the tender age of children are not abused and that citizens are not forced by economic necessity to enter avocations unsuitable to their age or strength. Article 41 provides that the State within the limits of its economic capability and development, make effective provision for securing the right to work, education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement, and in other cases of undeserved want, and whereas Article 42 says about the provisions regarding just and humane conditions of work and maternity relief. Article 43 mentioned about living wages for workers, and clearly indicates that it is the duty of the State endeavour to secure, by suitable legislation or economic organization or in any other way, to all workers, agricultural, industrial or otherwise, work, a living wage, conditions of work ensuring a decent standard of life and full enjoyment of leisure and social and cultural opportunities and, in particular, the State endeavour to promote cottage industries on an individual or co-operative basis in rural areas.

Apart from the Constitutional Provisions there is specific legislation for Inter-State migrant workers called as **Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Condition and Services) Act, 1979**. It is an Act of the Parliament of India enacted to regulate the condition of service of inter-state migrant workers. The purpose of the Act is to protect workers whose services are requisitioned outside their native states in India. Whenever an employer faces shortage of skills among the locally available workers, the Act creates provision to employ better skilled workers available outside the state.¹⁰ The Act extends to the whole of India and applies to every establishment in which five or more inter-state migrant workmen are employed or who were employed on any day of the preceding twelvemonths. These inter-state migrant workmen are not in addition to other workmen.¹¹ The Act also applies to every contractor who employs or who employed five or more inter-state migrant workmen on any day of the preceding twelve months. But the Act has not provided any provision for Intra-State migrant workers.

GOVERNMENT PLAN POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

MoU Signed between Odisha and other Destination States

In the month of June 2012, the Government of India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the States of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha. The MoU was in collaboration with an International Labor Organization (ILO) project to improve the working and living conditions of migrant workers from Odisha at brick kilns in Andhra Pradesh. The very purpose of the MoU was to facilitate the strengthening of the inter-state co-ordination mechanism relating to labor migration. The labor migration flow from the rural Odisha is identified as distress migration. The flow of migrant workers from Odisha to Andhra Pradesh was primarily to the Medak and Rangareddy (presently in Telengana) and various other parts of the State. The several aspects of MoU were taken up for implementation by the Governments of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh in 2012–2013, which was facilitated by the various civil society groups in both States. Further a State Coordination Cell for Migrant Workers at the office of Labor Commissioner, as well as District Level Facilitation Cells to track distressed seasonal migrant workers was constituted by the Department of Labor and ESI under Government of Odisha at the source. The State of Odisha in joint collaboration with Labor and ESI Department also adopt the policy of MoU with Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu etc. for reducing the illegal labor migration and to protect the rights of the children of the migrant workers.

¹⁰https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interstate_Migrant_Workmen_Act_1979, visited on 18/04/2019

¹¹http://www.doccentre.org/docsweb/LABOURLAWS/bare-acts/migrant_workmen_act.htm, accessed on 16/05/2019

Kalia Krushak Kalyan Yojana

Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA) Yojana is one of fundamental initiative taken by the government of Odisha for the development of rural economy. The scheme was launched by the government in the year 2018. Under the said Scheme the needy and poor farmer's of this State has benefited and financial assistance given to them is amount Rs. 10,000/- per annum for both the Kharif and Rabi crops. The scheme has supervised by the Department of Agriculture and farmer's empowerment.

The Five Major Aspects of the Schemes are as Follows

- Financial assistance to the farmers
- Livelihood assistance to the landless families
- Support to landless laborers and vulnerable agriculture households
- Insurance cover
- Interest-free crop loan¹²

7. CONCLUSIONS

Labor migration is a continuous process. In Odisha the numbers of 'Dadan Shramika' increased day to day. The maximum number of workers migrated from the rural Odisha and engaged in the brick kiln, factory, and construction sites of the neighbouring States. They were recruited through Agents with lump-sum amount. The rationale of recruitment chain has the internal link between the middlemen and the employer. Their rights of the workers and their children's are violated in the working places. The socio-economic conditions of the workers are not well enough. The social welfare schemes were not properly implemented in the rural area. Lack of co-ordination between the local Administration and NGOs in the cases of policy implementation is another cause for distress migration. The lack of awareness is the major issue for the violation of the rights of the migrant workers in the workplaces. But recently the Government of Odisha conducted the rescue operation to cover the illegal migrant workers and trying to rehabilitate them. The authority also conducted the awareness campaign and opened the seasonal hostels for educating the children the workers in the labor migration prone districts like Bargarh, Bolangir, Nuapada and Kalahandi. According to the report published in New Indian Express on 13th May 2018 around nine thousands children's belongs to migrant workers were retained in 206 seasonal hostels established in aforesaid four labor migration dominated area. The aforesaid process should be welcomed and the more and more joint initiatives programmes also shall be outlines by the Authority and role of NGO need to be enhanced to reduce the illegal labor migration practices and to protect the rights of the migrant workers and their children's.

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